

Message Text

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ACTION EA-02

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USIA FOR IEA, IOP/M, IBS, IPS, IOR/RIM

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: THAI MEDIA REACTION -- THAI-U.S. RELATIONS

COLUMNIST ER PAI, WRITING MAY 17 IN THE PRO-TAIWAN CHINESE-LANGUAGE
DAILY SHIH CHIEH JIT PAO, APPLAUDS THE REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CARTER
AND NEW THAI AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. ARUN PANTUPONG MADE DURING THE
MAY 13 CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION.

DESCRIBING THE REMARKS BY BOTH MEN AS "SIMPLE, PRACTICAL AND
POWERFUL," ER SAYS THAT THAI-U.S. RELATIONS USED TO BE "VERY
INTIMATELY CORDIAL FOR MANY DECADES" BUT DETERIORATED BADLY AFTER
"COMMUNIST-INSPIRED UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVISTS DEMANDED WITH-
DRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM THAILAND AND URINATED ON AND TORE
THE AMERICAN FLAG IN 1975." BUT SINCE THE MILITARY COUP LAST YEAR,
AR CONTINUES, "RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS HAVE BEEN CLOSER
AND MORE INTIMATE AGAIN.

"THE REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR ARUN AND PRESIDENT CARTER PERMIT
US TO PREDICT A MORE BRILLIANT FUTURE FOR THAILAND," ER CONCLUDES.

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TAGS: PDIP, SOPN, (CARTER, JIMMY), (ARUN PANTUPONG)
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